



LOWELL

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The City of Lowell is the fourth largest city in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its strategic location at the intersections of Routes 495, 93 and 3, provides excellent access to all points of interest in Massachusetts as well as New Hampshire and Maine. Commuter rail also provides an easy 40-minute ride to Boston's North Station.

Residents claim Lowell's National Park as this country's greatest tribute to the Industrial Revolution and the textile industry that boomed in New England in the nineteenth century. The rehabilitated mill buildings are further complemented by 2 1/2 miles of trolley and canal boat tours and several museums. The 3200-seat Lowell Auditorium hosts many of the country's best performers at affordable prices. The Merrimack Repertory theater, which is also located in downtown Lowell, is one of the few self-sustaining repertory theater groups in the northeast.

The 19th century mill buildings provide an excellent opportunity for low-cost acquisition and rehabilitation for small and large companies. The city offers many unique financial incentives to encourage new growth and development. The city's workforce is computer literate and strongly supported by the local school district, which has just completed nine new schools and five school rehabilitations. The education base also includes Middlesex Community College and University of Massachusetts at Lowell. The student population further enhances the market for retail businesses in downtown Lowell and its surrounding neighborhoods.

This planned urban community is built around the Merrimack River and its diverse canal system, which provided power to the early manufacturers. Today these water amenities add to the character of the city. Special events of the year include a folk festival which Lowell residents claim as the best in New England and which draws over 200,000 people annually, Riverfest, First Night, and Fourth of July fireworks. Residents say proudly that Lowell has something for everyone with its unmatched quality of life.

FINANCE AND EC

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern part of Massachusetts, bordered by Dracut on the north, Tyngsborough on the northwest, Chelmsford on the southwest, and Tewksbury on the east. Lowell is 25 miles north of Boston; 45 miles north of Worcester; 100 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 229 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 14.54 sq. miles

Land Area: 13.78 sq. miles

Population: 103,439

Density: 7,506 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Lawrence Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lowell, Billerica, Nashua South

Regional Planning Agency

Northern Middlesex

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lowell



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 970-4000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Council-Manager

City Manager

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1826

As a city: 1836

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	36,326		
Democrats	18,321	50.4	%
Republicans	3,905	10.7	%
Other parties	19	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	14,081	38.8	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Lowell city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	105,167	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	105,167	100.0
Male.....	51,807	49.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	14,734	14.0
Female.....	53,360	50.7	Mexican.....	282	0.3
Under 5 years.....	7,696	7.3	Puerto Rican.....	9,604	9.1
5 to 9 years.....	8,261	7.9	Cuban.....	121	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	7,945	7.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	4,727	4.5
15 to 19 years.....	8,111	7.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	90,433	86.0
20 to 24 years.....	8,892	8.5	White alone.....	65,760	62.5
25 to 34 years.....	18,025	17.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	16,137	15.3	Total population.....	105,167	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	11,588	11.0	In households.....	101,326	96.3
55 to 59 years.....	4,026	3.8	Householder.....	37,887	36.0
60 to 64 years.....	3,173	3.0	Spouse.....	15,202	14.5
65 to 74 years.....	5,683	5.4	Child.....	33,515	31.9
75 to 84 years.....	4,173	4.0	Own child under 18 years.....	25,093	23.9
85 years and over.....	1,457	1.4	Other relatives.....	7,533	7.2
Median age (years).....	31.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	2,518	2.4
18 years and over.....	76,826	73.1	Nonrelatives.....	7,189	6.8
Male.....	37,236	35.4	Unmarried partner.....	2,883	2.7
Female.....	39,590	37.6	In group quarters.....	3,841	3.7
21 years and over.....	71,273	67.8	Institutionalized population.....	1,120	1.1
62 years and over.....	13,116	12.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	2,721	2.6
65 years and over.....	11,313	10.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	4,189	4.0	Total households.....	37,887	100.0
Female.....	7,124	6.8	Family households (families).....	23,982	63.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	12,894	34.0
One race.....	101,046	96.1	Married-couple family.....	15,202	40.1
White.....	72,145	68.6	With own children under 18 years.....	7,627	20.1
Black or African American.....	4,423	4.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	6,602	17.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	256	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	4,210	11.1
Asian.....	17,371	16.5	Nonfamily households.....	13,905	36.7
Asian Indian.....	2,424	2.3	Householder living alone.....	10,969	29.0
Chinese.....	661	0.6	Householder 65 years and over.....	3,522	9.3
Filipino.....	106	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	14,166	37.4
Japanese.....	48	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over ..	8,005	21.1
Korean.....	147	0.1	Average household size.....	2.67	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1,598	1.5	Average family size.....	3.35	(X)
Other Asian ¹	12,387	11.8	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	38	-	Total housing units.....	39,468	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	5	-	Occupied housing units.....	37,887	96.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	8	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,581	4.0
Samoa.....	4	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	21	-	occasional use.....	87	0.2
Some other race.....	6,813	6.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.2	(X)
Two or more races.....	4,121	3.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	37,887	100.0
White.....	75,049	71.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	16,309	43.0
Black or African American.....	5,209	5.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	21,578	57.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	676	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.87	(X)
Asian.....	18,781	17.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.53	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	276	0.3			
Some other race.....	9,443	9.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	539
Conventional Federal:	1,638

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	170
Federal (Section 8):	870



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Lowell is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 3 connecting the Boston area with Nashua, New Hampshire, and Interstate Route 495, the outer belt around Boston.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is provided by Amtrak under contract to the MBTA. Travel time: 45-49 min.; 680 MBTA parking spaces. The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight service to Lowell. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Lowell is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), which provides fixed bus service between Lowell and the neighboring towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Tewksbury, and Tyngsborough. Paratransit services, including medical trips and special work trips to Boston, are available for the elderly and disabled through LRTA's Road Runner program.

Other

The Tew-Mac Airport in Tewksbury, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 2,600'x 60' and 2,830'x 26'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Other nearby airports include the Lawrence Municipal Airport in North Andover and L.G. Hanscom Field in Bedford.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Lowell Heritage State Park Waterpower Exhibit
25 Shattuck Street
(978) 453-1950

Lowell National Historical Park
169 Merrimack Street
(978) 459-1000

Middlesex Canal Collection
Center for Lowell History
40 French Street
(978) 934-4995

New England Quilt Museum
Clock Tower, Boot Mills,
Foot of John Street
(978) 452-4207

Whistler House Museum of Art
243 Worthen Street
(978) 452-7641

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Dr. H. Solomon Mental Health Center
Lowell General Hospital
St. John's Hospital
St. Joseph's Hospital, Inc.

Long Term Care

D'Youville Manor Nursing Home
Fairhaven Nursing Home
Glenwood Convalescent Home
Heritage Nursing Care Center
New Medico SNC Christian Hill
Northwood Nursing & Rehab. Center
St. Johns N.H. Of Lowell
Town And Country Nursing Home
Willow Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

V.N.A. Of Greater Lowell Hospice

Rest Homes

Battles Home
Horn Home For Aged
Princeton House Rest Home
River Valley House

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.